THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes Sir. A separate unit, as Special Security Group (SSG) has been constituted in CISF for the protection of VIPs.

(b) As per the report received from CISF, total 998 security personel out of the sanctioned strength of 1200 for this unit have been trained in VIP security duties so far. There are 23 lady personnel deployed in this unit.

(c) and (d) These security personnel are deployed for providing security to central protectees as per requirements. Though, these security personnel are largely deployed on active duty, some are also deputed on training and other administrative work.

Maharashtra SEZ and Designated Areas Act, 2006

923. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has forwarded draft of the proposed Bill of Maharashtra Special Economic Zone and Designated Areas Act, 2006 for the approval of Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when Government propose to approve the draft; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Maharashtra Special Economic Zones and Designated Areas Bill, 2006 provides for development, operation, maintenance, management and administration of Special Economic Zones and other specially Designated Areas in the State.

(c) and (d) The State Legislation are examined from three angles *viz.* (a) repugnancy with Central Laws, (b) deviation from National or Central Policy and (c) legal and Constitutional validity. In this case, there are certain policy issues to be sorted out in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments as well as State Government. Hence, no time-frame can be fixed in this regard.

Conversion of transit camps for tribals into permanent residental area in Dantewara

924. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chhattisgarh Government has taken a decision to convert the transit camps set up for tribals in Dantewara district into permanent residential area;

(b) whether it is a policy, approved by the Government of India for all tribal areas; and

(c) what are the measures taken to make the life of tribals livable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The specific matter relates to the State government of Chhattisgarh.

The Central Government provided assistance to the State Governments in the arenas of security and development, both. This includes assistance under various schemes for economic upliftment of tribals, for educational and vocational facilities for tribals, for creating critical infrastructural projects in tribal areas for tribal development and for raising the level of administration of scheduled areas.

Promotion of plea-bargaining

925. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of plea-bargaining is providing successful in Tihar Jail in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government would advise the State Governments to launch similar schemes to meet the dual purpose of reducing over-crowding in jails and simultaneously significantly helping in liquidation of huge arrears of languishing court cases; and

(c) whether a consensus amongst judiciary, excutive or even legislature could be worked out to put this or similar systems on firmer grounds for wider acceptance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The concept of plea bargaining has been introduced through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005 (Act 2 of 2006) primarily to reduce pendency of cases in trial Courts and overcrowding in Prisons. An advisory has been issued to all the State Governments for implementation of Prison Reforms including the concept of plea-bargaining to improve the prison management and decongesting the jails.

Attacks by Maoists/Naxalites on Police in Chhattisgarh

926. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were deadly attacks by Maoists/Naxalites on Police on Oct. 29, followed by Nov. 2, in Chhattisgarh, involving considerable loss of lives, indicative of our intelligence failure or indifferent attitude of law enforcing agencies;

(b) if so, the locations of the outposts where logistical support is difficult to reach, and other major contributory factors for such happenings; and

(c) whether there is a co-ordinated joint para-military force facing these Maoists or only State police forces with traditional weapons are deployed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) On 29.10.2007 and 02.11.2007, there were incidents of naxalite violence in Chhattisgarh, which resulted in casualties in security personnel.

Law and order being a State subject, dealing with the various issues related to naxalite activities in a State primarily lies in the domain of the concerned State Government.